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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

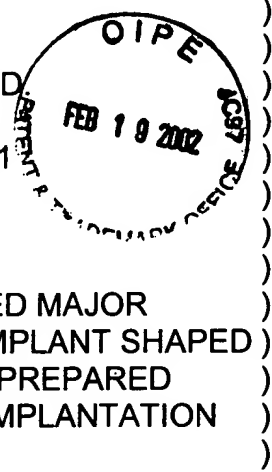
In re Application of:

Gary K. Michelson, M.D.

Serial No.: 09/593,591

Filed: June 13, 2000

For: MANUFACTURED MAJOR
LONG BONE RING IMPLANT SHAPED
TO CONFORM TO A PREPARED
INTERVERTEBRAL IMPLANTATION
SPACE



Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: P. Prebilo

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b), but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

The following listed document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement dated June 13, 2000, but not initialed by the Examiner indicating that it has been considered:

Muschler, et al.; The Biology of Spinal Fusion; Spinal Fusion
Science and Technique, Cotler and Cotler, pp. 9-13.

Copies of the remaining listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

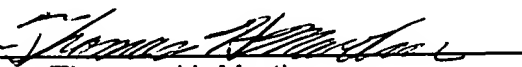
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: February 5, 2002

By: 
Thomas H. Martin
Registration No. 34,383

14500 Avion Parkway, Suite 300
Chantilly, VA 20151-1101
Telephone: (703) 679-9300
Facsimile: (703) 679-9303